

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
October Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 10, 2014
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland**

Members Present

Richard Cushwa
Robert Gaston
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Scott Hansen
Greg Hinchliffe
Jon Morrison
Erin Penniston
Kevin Racine
Carl Rebele
(Jennifer Jones for) Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer
Patrick Sheehan
(Michael Jackson for) James T. Smith, Jr.
Michael Tagliaferri
James G. Titus
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Steve Carr
Carol Silldorff
Jennifer Terrasa

Visitors Present

John Descofeaux
Nate Evans, Bike Maryland
Dustin Kuzan, State Highway Administration
Mike Mittel
Danny Pang

Acting Chair Dick Cushwa started the meeting at 9:30 AM. During introductions Deborah Grinnage-Pulley identified herself as the new representative from the State Department of Education replacing Christopher Hersl.

1. Approval of the August meeting minutes

Greg Hinchliffe moved and Fred Shaffer seconded his motion to approve the August meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Commuting and Transportation – Subcommittee Chair Greg Hinchliffe submitted a written report. He began his remarks in memory of Mr. Kit Valentine, a longtime trail advocate from the Catonsville area who recently passed away after struggling with cancer. Greg said a section of the Catonsville Rail Trail had been named in Mr. Valentine's honor. Greg joined Bike Maryland, local stakeholders and State Highway Administration (SHA) staff at a meeting to discuss the design of a planned extension of the Gwynns Falls Trail to a new trailhead terminus along the planned I-70 Red Line station in Baltimore County. He reported that SHA might consider a prefabricated bridge to carry trail traffic over MD 122 but remains resistant to retaining a portion of the existing I-70 overcrossing of MD 122 for the trail extension due to maintenance concerns.

In addition Greg attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Towson Bike Loop in September, participated in the East Coast Greenway Alliance press conference held in Perryville regarding the lack of non-motorized access over the Susquehanna River and continues to work with the Baltimore City Council and SHA on various bicycling policy issues. Jim Titus reported that discussions are continuing between SHA and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission regarding extending the WB&A Trail westerly across US 50 and the Capital Beltway. He also shared a draft resolution regarding subsidizing the cost of bicycle locker rentals for Maryland Department of Transportation employees who are bicycle commuters and asked that the members be prepared to vote on it at the December MBPAC meeting. Michael Jackson recommended that the C&T subcommittee meet with MTA staff prior to the December MBPAC meeting to discuss this draft resolution and agreed to make arrangements for this meeting.

Bob Gaston has been focused on trail activities; both working on gaining government approvals and actively constructing them in the tri-state region of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland (Cecil and Harford counties). Scott Hansen completed the Baltimore regional bicycle and pedestrian rail access shed study which looked at the potential for pedestrian and bicycle travel to 61 passenger rail stations within a defined radius for each travel mode. Scott is also working with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council on the establishment of a regional bicycle and pedestrian facility database. Kevin Racine said the Havre de Grace city council appointed a seven member team to track the prospects of creating a shared use path across the Susquehanna River as part of the planned new Amtrak railroad bridge across the river.

B. Education and Awareness – E&A Subcommittee Chair Erin Penniston submitted a written report which included news about the opportunities to submit applications for Smart Growth America's free technical assistance workshops coverage 12 separate topics, a website addressing basic questions about public-private partnerships (aka P3s) and opportunities for the inclusion of new non-motorized facilities in such partnership project. The report also shared grant opportunities from the League of American Bicyclists and the National Center for Safe Routes to Schools. Cari Watrous mentioned the availability of labor supplied by the Maryland Department of Corrections for constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

compliant ramps, sidewalks, crossings and connections. Cari promised to send information about this program through Michael for distribution to the members.

There was discussion about possible partnerships between the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), MBPAC other stakeholders and communities regarding community promotion of physical activity and development and implementation of transportation/community plans that promote walking as part of a grant DHMH received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This grant program promotes walking as a strategy to increase physical activity levels among the general population and populations most prone to chronic diseases caused or exacerbated by being obese, overweight and/or sedentary. Jennifer Jones said she would look into a Walk with a Doctor program that exists in the Harpers Ferry/Shepherdstown area of West Virginia to determine if it might serve as a role model for walking programs envisioned by the DHMH grant program. She later discussed that state employees with chronic medical conditions would have to participate in appropriate wellness programs or be penalized in 2015.

C. Legislative and Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Jon Morrison submitted a written report. He described a L&GA subcommittee meeting held last month with MDOT State Legislative Officer Kristen Weiss and Matt Garbark from the Office of Policy and Government Affairs. This meeting was held to introduce the L&GA members and Kristen and Matt to each other, to share legislative and policy concerns from L&GA members and to inquire about MDOT's 2015 legislative priorities. Because the Department's un-finalized legislative priorities would be affected by the November election results Kristen suggested holding a follow up discussion with L&GA at some point after November 4th but prior to the December MBPAC meeting.

It was noted that the Washington Post recently stated that DC had been ranked third best city for walking behind first place Seattle and second place Boston. Patrick Sheehan said the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is concerned with improving pedestrian safety and focusing pedestrian facility improvement efforts in Prince George's and Montgomery counties in order to reduce expensive paratransit usage by transit patrons with disabilities. Jim said the DC government is installing traffic cameras to catch motorists who fail to stop for pedestrians. Michael brought up his concern that Maryland law prohibits the popular flashing white front and flashing rear tail lights on bicycles. Jon proposed simply exempting bicycles from lighting restrictions as a solution.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee Chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report. Carl Rebele circulated an article from The Republican, a Garrett County newspaper, stating that Oakland is ranked the best place in the nation to observe fall coloration. He also distributed Deep Creek Lake Autumn Glory festival brochures stating it is the number one fall festival in the world as ranked by MSN.com and invited members to visit Garrett County during the season. Dick announced that MDOT had submitted an application to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) nominating US Bicycle Route 11 between Harpers Ferry, WVA and the Pennsylvania state line just west of I-

81 in Washington County. He also said that the City of Hagerstown received a \$70,000 grant from MDOT for bikeway improvements and an additional \$75,000 grant in September for engineering another section of trail.

Jennifer reported that Marci Ross would be attending the national bicycle tourism conference in San Diego, CA in November. Jennifer attended a tourism development meeting in which Virginians and Vermonters discussed how much they enjoyed bicycling in the vicinity of Rock Hall. January 19th is the date for recycling all Office of Tourism Development materials with Governor Martin O'Malley's name on them. Carl discussed highlights of absent member Steve Carr's report. Carl also mentioned how SHA is improving US 219 south of the Pennsylvania state line to match planned US 219 improvements in that state.

3. Scott Hansen Presentation

Scott gave a combined power point presentation on his work in identifying bicycling and walking travel sheds around 61 passenger rail stations in the metropolitan Baltimore region and identification of travel barriers within those non-motorized travel sheds. At one location there was a utility easement that is being used informally by pedestrians. Community opposition to formalizing short cuts was also discussed. Scott also mentioned Maryland Department of Planning tools for the creation and enhancement of transit oriented development sites.

4. MARC Full Sized Bicycle on Rail Demonstration

Michael gave a power point presentation on an invitation-only demonstration conducted by MARC on the day before the October MBPAC meeting. Attendees included representatives from Bike Maryland, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, the Virginia Bicycle Federation and staff from MDOT as well as staff from MARC and their consultants. The meeting was held at their Frederick rail yard. Attendees were invited to bring bicycles to carry on-board a modified rail car with half of the seats removed. A bicycle rack and luggage rack had been installed. Invitees assessed the modifications and gave feedback to MARC staff.

MARC intends to outfit the car with enough racks to carry 25 bicycles and to identify the outside of the bike cars with prominent graphics. Service is expected to be limited initially to weekend service on the Penn line and begin by the end of the year.

5. Adjournment – Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM